

Teaching with Images of REALIA

Whether you are a teacher or a student, the images in The REALIA Project can serve as an excellent resource. Within you will find digitized **realia**, pictures of everyday items and situations familiar to a given culture, that can enhance the teaching and learning experience at all language levels, in culture courses or in preparation for travel abroad.

Many types of activities can be designed around or enhanced by images. The suggestions below can serve as a springboard for a variety of activities be they instructor-led, student-driven or extracurricular. Many can be done orally or as written assignments.

- **Identification:** Describe the objects, persons, places, and actions depicted in the photograph. What colors and spatial relations are evident?
- **Elaboration:** What questions do the photos encourage you to ask? Do the photos relate to historical or current events? To cultural or social issues?
- **Contextualization:** Focus on comparisons of places through time, especially photos of objects or buildings of historical significance, e.g., a photo of the Brandenburg Gate for a discussion of old and new Berlin or the Cold War. Even a photo of a more common object such as a candy wrapper or cereal box can demonstrate that every culture is in flux.
- **Comparison:** Use our Compare Viewer in the “My Favorites” sections to illustrate a pair of photos. Devise descriptions or comparisons that go beyond those included with the photos. What new dimensions could you add?
- **Cultural Competence:** Use images to dispel stereotypes and to complement the images available in traditional textbooks. Increase familiarity with the look and feel of a region, thereby promoting more informed cultural proficiency. Spark enthusiasm among students to experience first-hand the culture(s) they are studying.